

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042102

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (CLEARANCES OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, FR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: FRENCH POSITION ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

REF: USUN 511

1. FRENCH EMBASSY MINISTER BOYER CALLED ON DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) HELMAN FEBRUARY 16 TO CONVEY
FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE HORN RESOLUTION
BEING DISCUSSED BY THE FIVE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN
NEW YORK (REFTEL). BOYER EXPLAINED THAT PARIS IS
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ESPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH THAT PORTION OF THE
RESOLUTION CALLING FOR WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY
FORCES. HE EXPLAINED THAT FRANCE'S POLICY IN AFRICA
IS BASED UPON THE POSSIBILITY OF RESPONDING TO GOVERN-
MENTS THAT NEED FRANCE'S ASSISTANCE ON MATTERS OF
SECURITY. CONSEQUENTLY, FRANCE WANTS TO AVOID ANY
LANGUAGE IN A RESOLUTION ON THE HORN WHICH APPEARS

TO ESTABLISH A PRINCIPLE DRAWING INTO QUESTION THE LEGITIMACY OF FOREIGN MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. BOYER NOTED THAT THE PRESENT CONFLICT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES COULD WELL SPILL OVER INTO DJIBOUTI, WHERE FRANCE HAS TROOPS.

2. HELMAN RESPONDED BY RECALLING THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 12, IN WHICH THEY AGREED TO PURSUE AN INITIATIVE IN THE SC GENERALLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE RESOLUTION CIRCULATED TO THE MINISTERS BY THE US. HE SAID THAT RESOLUTION MAKES CLEAR THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES AND THE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES, I.E., SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES. WE CONTINUE TO ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAINING THAT LINKAGE. WE HOPE THAT SOME FORMULATION CAN BE FOUND BY OUR MISSIONS IN NEW YORK TO ACCOMMODATE THE FRENCH POSITION, WHICH WE WELL UNDERSTOOD, AND STILL MAINTAIN THE LINKAGE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US. CERTAINLY WE SHOULD NOT NOW ABANDON AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL OBJECTIVE BEFORE WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO US MORE GENERALLY IN THE SC. VANCE

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